



Draft Environmental Impact Statement for a Geologic Repository for the Disposal of Spent Nuclear Fuel and High-Level Radioactive Waste

Comment Sheet

EIS001272

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Name: Angela Hixon Organization: _____
Mailing Address: 22187 Sandy Lane
Fairview Park, OH Zip: 44126
Telephone number (optional): (____) _____

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Comments: (If possible, please reference section number and/or page number in document if applicable.)

- 1 Although no final plan has been developed to deal with the high-level radioactive waste, nuclear power plants continue to generate 2000 metric tons of this waste every year. The plants should be shut down and the waste stream discontinued until a safe plan that affects the smallest number of people is devised and our elected representatives agree on it.
- 2 According to the EIS, containers will have to meet NRC design requirements, including withstanding a 30 foot free fall onto a flat surface and a 40 inch fall onto a 6 inch diameter spike. Neither of these tests accurately depict a traffic accident. In the free fall test, speed of 120 mph is realistic, but the free fall insures that the heaviest part of the container will hit. There is no such assurance in a traffic accident. The 40 inch fall onto a spike achieves only 14 mph—certainly not a normal accident speed. What happens at 65 mph or more? Actual crash tests should be required to insure the containment of this high-level radioactive waste.
- 3 No accident readiness is in place. At the Cleveland, OH, hearing on 29 January 2000, the DoE panel was asked specifically what would happen if a major accident occurred in the Cleveland area. The panel responded by indicating that this was unlikely. Period. When pressed for an answer, the panel was unclear about how a major accident would be contained and cleaned up. The fact is that if a major accident occurred, another container would have to be brought to the site, heavy machinery such as a crane would also need to be brought to the site, and workers experienced with handling high-level radioactive waste would need to be brought to the site. While waiting for help to arrive, countless unknowing people who live and work in the area, as well as those driving the same route, would be exposed to radioactivity which could kill them or at least cause a cancer that will eventually kill them. No mention of evacuation plans, notification of the public, distribution of iodine pills to prevent thyroid cancer—nothing to help the innocent bystander from the effects of this high-level radioactive waste.
- 4 Security issues were only lightly touched on. DoE panel stated at the Cleveland hearing that shipments would be escorted and the escort would be armed in urban areas. What about the rest of the route? What steps will be taken to prevent terrorism? The trucks and trains will most certainly be an easy target. If the waste remains entombed at the site of its creation (the nuclear power plant), it is much easier to protect from terrorist attacks.
- 5 The EIS looks at only two scenarios: transporting high-level radioactive waste to Yucca Mountain in Nevada, or taking no action at all. No other alternatives, such as developing permanent storage at each nuclear facility that creates this waste were explored.
- 6 The majority of high-level radioactive waste generated in the North Eastern part of the United States will be transported through the city of Cleveland, OH, and its suburbs. This puts many people, including my family, friends, co-workers, and neighbors at risk when an accident occurs. I have never had a voice in choosing the method of generating electricity, and I had no choice in which electric company would provide power to my home. I would never have chosen a company that built nuclear power plants for my provider, had I been given the choice. I hope that I may have a voice in deciding if this highly toxic and dangerous waste should journey across the country and across my backyard, putting every person along the route at risk, EVERY DAY FOR 24 YEARS.

cc: Congressman Dennis Kucinich
Senator Mike DeWine
Senator George Voinovich